

## Message Text

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51

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ADP-00 NEAE-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 USIA-15 PRS-01

RSR-01 /089 W

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P R 201256Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9478

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 6556

E O 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, US, IS

SUBJECT: ISRAELI REACTION TO ARRIVAL OF AMB KEATING

SUMMARY: ARRIVAL OF AMB KEATING TO ISRAEL HAS BEEN MAJOR NEWS STORY IN AUG 19 AND 20 PRESS, RADIO AND TV. ALL MAJOR NEWS-PAPERS COMMENT EDITORIALY THAT AMB'S ARRIVAL WILL LEAD TO EVEN CLOSER US-ISRAELI RELATIONS AND STRESS AMB'S FAMILIARITY WITH ISRAEL. IN ONLY POLITICAL COMMENTARY TO DATE, MARGALIT OF HAARETZ WRITES THAT AMB KEATING WILL REFRAIN FROM ANY DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVES UNTIL KNESSET ELECTIONS END OF OCTOBER. END SUMMARY.

1. ARRIVAL OF AMB KEATING TO ISRAEL RECEIVED PROMINENT COVERAGE IN AUG 19 AND 20 ISRAELI PRESS, RADIO AND TELEVISION. KOL ISRAEL RADIO AUG 19 CARRIED AMB'S ARRIVAL STATEMENT AS LEAD STORY AND ISRAELI TV SAME DAY FEATURED ARRIVAL IN PRIME TIMER NEWS COVERAGE.

2. ALL MAJOR ISRAELI NEWSPAPERS AUG 20 CARRY EXCERPTS FROM AIRPORT ARRIVAL STATEMENT IN ADDITION TO BACKGROUND INFO ON AMB KEATING (TEL AVIV 5509 (NOTAL) AND COMMENT  
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EDITORIALY ON HIS ARRIVAL. COMMON THEMES THROUGHOUT ARE

CLOSE AND HARMONIOUS US-ISRAELI RELATIONS WHICH WILL BE CONSOLIDATED AND DEEPENED BY AMB KEATING'S APPOINTMENT AND DEEP UNDERSTANDING OF ISRAEL ON PART OF NEW US AMB.

3. NOTING THAT ARRIVAL OF NEW AMERICAN AMB IN ISRAEL IS NOT ROUTINE EVENT, HAARETZ COMMENTED THAT US-ISRAELI RELATIONS HAVE IN RECENT YEARS ACHIEVED A CLOSENESS THAT HAS FEW PARALLELS AMONG COUNTRIES OF WORLD. "MR KEATING WILL NOT HAVE TO BUILD DIPLOMATIC ASSETS OUT OF THIN AIR: HIS TASK IS TO LOOK AFTER A TREASURE THAT HAS ACCUMULATED OVER MANY YEARS. HE MAY BE SURE THAT HE IS WELCOME. HE MUST, OF COURSE, REPRESENT HIS COUNTRY IN ISRAEL, AND IN THE NATURE OF THINGS COUNTRIES DO NOT ALWAYS SEE COMPLETELY EYE TO EYE, EVEN IF BOTH ARE CONVINCED THAT THEY ARE PROCEEDING ON PARALLEL LINES. BUT PAST EXPERIENCE JUSTIFIES THE PREDICTION THAT THE NEW AMB WILL ALSO NOT THINK THAT IN EXPLAINING THE ISRAELI PEOPLE'S FEELING TO THOSE WHO HAVE SENT HIM, HE DEPARTS FROM HIS DUTIES."

4. DAVAR WELCOMES AMB'S ARRIVAL AND COMMENTS THAT HIS ASSIGNMENT TO ISRAEL WILL CONTRIBUTE TO CLOSE AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN US AND ISRAEL. "THE APPOINTMENT OF KEATING BY PRESIDENT NIXON IS ONE MORE INDICATION OF THE GREAT IMPORTANCE THE PRESIDENT ATTACHES TO ISRAEL AND THE MID EAST IN THE FABRIC OF AMERICAN POLICY AND OF HIS DESIRE TO BE REPRESENTED IN THIS FOCAL PLACE BY A MAN WHOM HE TRUSTS."

5. MAARIV ALSO EMPHASIZES HARMONIOUS US-ISRAELI RELATIONS AND AMB KEATING'S FAMILIARITY WITH ISRAEL. "THE NEW AMERICAN AMB WILL KNOW HOW TO CONTINUE THE TRADITION OF HIS PREDECESSOR... AND IS ASSURED OF THE HELP OF ISRAEL'S GOVT AND PUBLIC IN CARRYING OUT HIS DUTIES WITH THE FULLEST OF SUCCESS."

6. JERUSALEM POST EDITORIAL NOTES THAT DIFFERENCES OF OPINION AS RESULT OF IMPASSE IN SEARCH FOR ME PEACE MAY ARISE IN FUTURE BETWEEN US AND ISRAEL WHICH WOULD "CALL FOR MUCH PATIENCE, UNDERSTANDING AND IMAGINATION. IT IS FORTUNATE FOR ALL CONCERNED THAT KENNETH KEATING POSSESSES THESE QUALITIES AS HE JOINS THE LINE OF DISTINGUISHED AMERICAN AMBASSADORS WHO HAVE SERVED IN ISRAEL."

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7. ONLY POLITICAL COMMENTARY ON ARRIVAL APPEARED IN AUG 19 ARTICLE BY MARGALIT OF HAARETZ. NOTING THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO US AMB IN ISRAEL FOR SEVERAL MONTHS, MARGALIT STATES THAT THIS HAS BEEN INTERPRETED IN JERUSALEM AS PROOF THAT THERE IS NO URGENCY IN SUGGESTIONS FROM WASHINGTON THAT THERE IS A NEED FOR ISRAELI IDEAS ON NEW INITIATIVES. MARGALIT SAYS THAT NEW US AMB WILL REFRAIN FROM ALL DIPLOMATIC

INITIATIVES UNTIL AFTER GENERAL ELECTIONS IN OCTOBER.  
KEATING

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## Message Attributes

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